[*Translation*]

Free Medical facilities to Poor

3344. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide free medical facilities in the public hospitals to the people living below poverty-line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The indoor patients in Government Hospitals are provided medical facilities free of cost. Poor outdoor patients are also provided medical facilities free of cost.

[*English*]

Raids on Hoarders of Foodgrains

3345. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids were conducted on various traders in Delhi and a large quantity of hoarded rice has been recovered from them during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantity of rice recovered and the estimated value thereof;

(c) whether such raids have also been conducted against the hoarders of foodgrains in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the foodgrains recovered;

(e) the action taken so far against such traders; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the raids/checkings conducted in the premises belonging to 18 traders in Delhi, a quantity of 2,91,857 quintals of rice was found hoarded. Besides rice, some quantities of paddy, pulses, oilseeds and coarsegrains were also detected. The total value of the rice and other foodgrains recovered is estimated over Rs. 54 crores. FIRs have been lodged in two cases.

In addition, Delhi Police had also undertaken checkings in 46 cases in respect of traders in foodgrains, fair price shops, kerosene oil depots and vehicles carrying foodgrains leading to filling of FIRs in 8 cases in the first fornight of February, 1992.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gram Shiksha Karyakram in Bihar

3346. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount allocated to various States, by the Union Government and UNICEF under the "Gram Shiksha Karyakram" being run jointly by the Union Government, UNICEF and the State Gov-

ernments during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the names of the various districts in Bihar, where this programme has been implemented and the extent of amount spent during the above period;

(c) the year-wise number of women in Bihar benefited under this scheme till 31st January, 1992; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated to Bihar for this purpose during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d). UNICEF have informed that they do not assist any programme entitled "Gram Shiksha Karyakram" in Bihar or any other state, being run jointly by the Union Government, State Government and UNICEF. However pre-project activities of Bihar Education Project were initiated in three districts of Rohtas, West Champaran and Ranchi. An Amount of Rs. 1.81 crores was released by UNICEF in the year 1991-92. It is too early to specify the number of beneficiaries. In the Budget for 1992-93, an amount of Rs. 12 crores has been proposed for the Bihar Education Project.

Expenditure on Aerial Seeding

3347. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH DODA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on aerial seeding measures in afforestation programmes during the last three years; and

(b) the success rate of such aerial seeding programmes in terms of the expenditure incurred vis-a-vis other afforestation measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Total Central assistance provided to the States for Aerial Seeding during the three year period from 1988-89 to 1990-91 was Rs. 4.66 crores.

(b) The success rate of aerial seeding operation of not comparable with normal plantation operations; aerial seeding is not like silviculture, horticulture or agriculture operations, which are conducted under controlled conditions, whereas aerial seeding is not executed under similar conditions. Moreover, it is possible to assess the success of a plantation programme on the basis of saplings actually planted and the plants that survive. The same yard-stick cannot be applied to aerial seeding, which involves release of seed from the air. The cost norms of the two operations are also significantly different. The Central assistance provided for aerial seeding work under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the National Wastelands Development Board is limited to Rs. 650 per hectares whereas the cost of afforestation normally varies from Rs. 7000 to Rs. 10,000 per hectare.

[*Translation*]

Review of operation blackboard programme

3348. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of Operation Blackboard programme;